

IV fluids inquiry blames 'human failings'

Human failings at Evans Medical Ltd, ranging from simple carelessness to poor management of men and plant, were the fundamental cause of the release by the company of a batch of infusion fluid which had not been adequately sterilised.

That is the finding of the committee of inquiry set up by the Secretary for Social Services to look into the circumstances that led to the use of contaminated infusion fluids at the Devonshire section of the Plymouth General Hospital earlier this year (see p 78).

The committee, headed by Mr C. M. Clothier, says that Mr J. V. Smart, the company's pharmaceutical production manager, must bear the major responsibility for the manufacture of the faulty batch. He had transferred to the transfusion unit a pharmacist, Mr B. S. Devonport, whose background did not include practical knowledge of the operation of autoclaves, and had neither provided him with adequate training nor checked on how he was discharging his responsibilities.

However, Mr Devonport is required to take some of the responsibility because he allowed an inadequate procedure to become established, despite his theoretical knowledge. The chief analyst also shares in the responsibility because he failed to put in hand inquiries designed to reveal shortcomings in the quality control procedures, despite a clear mandate from his managing director.

It is the committee's view that too many people believe that sterilisation of fluids is easily achieved with simple plant operated by men of little skill under a minimum of supervision—"a view of the task which is wrong in every respect".

Opiates 'not needed'

Opium, morphine and codeine are no longer indispensable in the practice of modern medicine, according to a scientific group of the World Health Organisation.

Medical needs for each year are now covered by a total of 1,350 tons of opium, but nearly as much—about 1,200 tons—reaches the illicit market

in one form or another, and contributes to the drug dependence problem throughout the world.

The experts claim that synthetic compounds are available that are as effective as opiates for the relief of moderate to severe pain and, in some respects, may be superior to them. For the relief of mild to moderate pain, compounds are available that are equivalent to codeine, although none is clearly superior to it.

There is also substantial evidence that some synthetic drugs are as effective against cough as codeine, and to some extent have been used in place of codeine. Lack of well-controlled trials prevents a definitive judgement on the relative merits of these substances.

For the control of diarrhoea, synthetic drugs are available that are equivalent or superior to the opiates, and some are being widely used.

WHO Technical Report Series No 495, HM Stationery Office, price £0.30.

Pharmacy management four-day course

The Institute of Pharmacy Management is arranging a four-day pharmacy management course at Bloomsbury Square, London, WC1, from October 16. The course, which is non-residential, will be conducted by pharmacists with wide lecturing experience, most of them holding university or college appointments. The fee of £45 includes morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea.

Applications should be addressed to the administrative secretary, Institute of Pharmacy Management, 42 Rufford Avenue, Bramcote, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 3JH.

Students of the course requiring accommodation should notify the administrative secretary at the time of forwarding the application.



The Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, Lord Leverhulme, presents the Queen's Award to Mr R. G. Hoare (centre), chairman of ICI Pharmaceuticals Division. Also pictured is Mr Nicholas Winterton, MP for Macclesfield. Since the scheme was introduced in 1966 the British pharmaceutical industry has gained 22 awards, four of them this year. Seven have gone to ICI

Three-day session for Statutory Committee

The Statutory Committee of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain has a busy time ahead in the week commencing July 24. On the first day it will consider evidence against members of the Society in which allegations range from misconduct for advertising to offences under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act. On that day evidence will be given that two members may have been guilty of misconduct "by advertising the professional services offered by the Company."

For "advertising and canvassing the activities of their respective companies" evidence about two other members will be considered also on July 25 while on July 26, information from which it appears two other members had been convicted under the Theft Act and under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act respectively, will be considered.

On all three days inquiries into previously adjourned cases will be resumed.

Intravenous bags favoured

A six-month trial on the use of collapsible plastic bags as a closed intravenous fluid therapy system in America revealed that 55 per cent of the staff questioned favoured the new system while 18 per cent were against the change from conventional bottles.

The responses of nursing staff, IV teams and "anaesthesiology" staff are recorded in

a recent article in the *American Journal of Hospital Pharmacy*.

Unbreakability, ease of storage and handling, and ease of adding medication were the features that were most appreciated. Only a small percentage of respondents noted the fact that the system was closed as being an advantage.

Reading difficulty

Difficulty with reading the volume of the fluid was the main criticism of the bags. Hanging and removing them from intravenous stands was a problem for 25 per cent of the nurses. Many of them said they had to use both hands to hang and remove a bag whereas with a bottle the same procedure could be accomplished with one hand.

Leaks were reported occasionally and staff said they would prefer the bags to have firmer end flaps to facilitate identification.

Holiday Magic issue writ

Bernard Braden and the BBC were served with a writ issued on Tuesday alleging defamation and claiming damages as a result of an item on "Braden's Week" on January 15. The writ has been issued by solicitors acting on behalf of Holiday Magic Great Britain Ltd, Watford, Herts.

The item in the programme which is the subject of the claim dealt with alleged activities of certain companies engaged in multi-level distribution in the United Kingdom. Holiday Magic announced that any damages awarded to them as a result of their proceedings would be donated to charity.

Technicians go to BMA over script 'abuses'

The Association of Pharmacy Technicians has written to the British Medical Association about the "abuses in prescribing" which have come to its knowledge.

Receipt of the letter is noted by the *British Medical Journal* in its report on the last meeting of the BMA General Medical Services Committee.

As an example, the Association alleged that one doctor was known to leave a batch of unwritten signed EC 10 forms with the local chemist for him "to complete as he willed".

"Several doctors were known to leave batches of signed blank scripts with their receptionist/clerks, who completed them on request by the patient. Furthermore, several were known to leave signed, completed scripts in an open front porch, where anyone could come in and help themselves. Similarly, medicines were left in the porch and even outside on the doorstep.

"Repeat prescriptions were written and given out by the receptionist over a period of years without the patient having been seen in the meantime and so on."

The Committee agreed to inform the Association of the advice it had already issued on these matters.

'Make more use of pharmacists'

"The pharmacist, for too long merely a dispenser, has the appropriate training and qualifications to provide all information and advice on drug interactions, aseptic technique and bioavailability," writes Dr Tom Stuttford, MP, in the *British Medical Journal*, July 8, p 112.

"He [the pharmacist] must therefore be encouraged to extend his responsibilities outside the pharmacy, provide a 24-hour service and become an active member of the health team, the rest of whom, in their turn, must be encouraged to respect his advice." Dr Stuttford was making the point that there should be wide investigations into the "whole practice" of intravenous therapy.

"It is impractical to expect a doctor who prescribes treatment fully to appreciate the chemical pharmacology and incompatibilities of all drugs."

Nursing staff are increasingly expected to make complicated pharmaceutical calculations and reconstitute drugs for mixing with sterile fluids on non-sterile wards "without formal training or education".

Dr Stuttford believes that since over 17,500,000 units of intravenous fluid are given to patients annually, the time is opportune to re-examine the habits which for too long have been allowed to evolve in an haphazard manner. The responsibilities for trouble-free intravenous administration technique must be clearly defined. He suggests a Department of Health circular and guidance for defence societies would help. "The responsibility that intravenous therapy remains a safe and effective technique rests will all the professional groups involved—the medical staff, nursing service, and the pharmacist."

Welsh progress on Noel Hall

In a move towards implementation of the Noel Hall Report in Welsh hospital pharmacy, two pharmacists have been appointed, and five pharmacists elected by representative hospital pharmacists, to serve on an officer advisory body which will be required to draw up a regional plan for Wales.

That step was reported at a meeting of the council of the Guild of Hospital Pharmacists on July 8. The meeting also heard that the salaries secretary had written to the Welsh Hospital Board protesting about a recently-published advertisement for the University Hospital for Wales on "Noel Hall Salaries" before the first meeting of the officer advisory body.

Council decided to write to the Board protesting that an area pharmaceutical service appeared to have been decided upon based on the University Hospital for Wales without prior consultation of staff interests.

It was reported that the general secretary and Mr J. G. Roberts would be visiting Bel-

fast to meet branch officers of the Guild and the Northern Ireland Hospital Authority this month for discussions on the implementation of Noel Hall in Northern Ireland.

Discussions were continuing with the Pharmaceutical Society on the relationship between the Guild and the Society as it might develop. Documents now received from the Society would be studied and time for full discussion of the future of the Guild would be provided at the September Guild council meeting.

Mr. J. G. Roberts was elected vice-president, Mr G. Calder, honorary editor, and Mr G. Raine salaries secretary. Miss J. Greenleaf, general secretary, Mr W. Mott, treasurer, and Mr J. R. Peattie, assistant general secretary, were re-elected.

A 'breath test' for cannabis

Investigations in South Africa into a "breathalyser" test for cannabis smoking have produced encouraging results according to T. J. McCarthy, of the Department of Pharmacy, University of Western Cape, and J. D. Van Zyl.

They found that no simple screening test to detect cannabis smokers and subsequently developed a test where the subject is required to breathe onto a paper (filter paper or tissue) freshly dampened with aqueous Fast Blue B salt.

Writing in the June edition of the *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology* McCarthy and Van Zyl record that previous workers have found that the reagent has a sensitivity down to 0.01 µg by thin layer chromatography.

Colour response

The colour response is from bright orange-pink to deep orange-pink tinged with mauve up to 15 minutes after smoking and a colour is obtainable up to two hours "after one typical cannabis cigarette."

The two men have investigated substances that might interfere with the test, but have encountered no problems except with certain brands of South African tobacco. They say there is a need to develop a suitable chromatographic solvent system which eliminates that tobacco.

They state that simple colour tests, the first using Fast Blue B and the second "Meta" Duquenois reagent, have been described for almost specific identification.

Case against pharmaceutical nationalisation

Following the Labour Party's announcement last week that it was going to set up a special study group to examine the pharmaceutical industry including the possibility of State participation or ownership, the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry has sent the Party's industrial policy committee an 8-page paper putting forward their case against intervention.

The main conclusions of the ABPI document are:

□ The price of medicines supplied to the National Health Service must be separated from the question of the pharmaceutical industry's position in the economy and as an employer. The NHS and the government are now in a very strong position in negotiating prices, which are now among the lowest in the world.

□ The NHS represents only about 3 per cent of the world pharmaceutical market, and even within the UK it is a minority customer, taking much less than half of the industry's output. Profit margins on NHS sales of medicines are only half of export margins. As far as prices are concerned, nothing is likely to be gained from putting further pressure on the industry.

Confidence loss

□ A great deal could be lost by State intervention in pharmaceutical companies. The loss of confidence and the cut-back in research would result in a loss of UK export markets to the US, Germany, Switzerland and other countries where large research and development programmes maintain their competitive position. The NHS would have to import the newer medicines thus further aggravating the trade balance. There would be a substantial cut-back in employment.

□ There would be a substantial loss to the exchequer of taxation on profits from exports. It has been calculated that tax from these overseas earnings alone exceeds the industry's profits from NHS sales.

The ABPI expect the study group to be chaired by Mrs Judith Hart and among the other likely members (about eight in all) may be Dr Shirley Summerskill, Mr Laurie Pavitt and Dr John Dunwoody (president, Socialist Medical Association).

Westminster report

Barbiturate prescribing

"Are you really satisfied that advising doctors to prescribe carefully is sufficient to deal with this acknowledged problem?" Dr Shirley Summerskill asked the Secretary for Social Services in the Commons on Tuesday, in reference to the abuse of barbiturates.

Sir Keith Joseph replied that he was not satisfied, but discussions were in progress with the medical profession and the results of studies into the pattern of prescribing were awaited.

Mr Tam Dalyell had asked Sir Keith when he expected to reach a decision on the BMA's proposals for an inquiry into the use and abuse of barbiturates and other sedative drugs. He replied that it would take some time to determine what further study was required and how it could be best designed and carried out.

Mr Dalyell asked if there was *prima facie* evidence that barbiturate abuse was "on the way out", but Sir Keith could not give an immediate answer. "The Government has consulted the medical profession about the possibility of further medical self-discipline", and in the light of the reply, steps would be taken.

Commons query on deodorants

Three backbench MPs, Mr Hugh Jenkins, Mr David Mudd and Mr Robert Taylor, have tabled a Parliamentary motion stating "That this House urges the Independent Television Authority to reconsider its decision to permit the advertising of vaginal deodorants".

At question time in the Commons Mr E. Bishop asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer to what extent the cost of cosmetics would be increased as a result of entry into the EEC.

Mr Terence Higgins, Financial Secretary, replied "It is not considered likely that entry into the EEC will have any significant effect on the general level of cost of cosmetics".

Mr L. Pavitt asked the Secretary for Social Services if he

would issue a direction to the Medicines Commission that anti-dandruff preparations and shampoos, especially those containing selenium, should be subject to safety procedures in view of poisonous content and the risk of dermatitis.

Mr Michael Alison, Under Secretary, replied "There is no provision under which the Secretary of State can issue directions to the Medicines Commission on such matters, nor do we see any reason for any special action in relation to the preparations mentioned which are subject to the provisions of the Medicines Act if marketed for use for medicinal purposes".

Health hazards

Asked by Mr L. Pavitt what steps he was taking to promote the general recognition of the hazards to health involved in the addition of drugs to large volume injections, Mr Michael Allison, Under-Secretary, said that the need for further guidance was under consideration though ultimately decisions on clinical practice were matters for the three professions—doctors, nurses and pharmacists.

Drugs campaign for television?

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary for Social Services, was asked by Mr Pavitt if the Department would take television time to encourage the "Do not hoard medicines" campaign.

He replied: "I am consulting the Health Education Council, the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and the Society of Medical Officers of Health about what steps might be taken to extend such campaigns."

Pharmacist-Priest shot in Belfast

Father Noel Fitzpatrick who conducted the service in Aquinas Hall for Roman Catholic members attending the Belfast British Pharmaceutical Conference in 1969, was one of the fatal casualties during an outburst of firing in the streets of Belfast on Sunday evening.

Father Fitzpatrick was a pharmacist having qualified in Northern Ireland in 1951 after an apprenticeship served with Mr V. P. Crossin, Donegall Street. Shortly after qualifying he left the profession for the priesthood.



One of the "Johnson Babies" who are currently visiting pharmacists participating in Johnson & Johnson's display competition. This boost, which offers prizes totalling over £1,000, is the biggest the company have ever mounted for baby products through pharmaceutical outlets

'Tremcards' for transporters

The physical properties and emergency action to be taken in the case of accidents to about 100 hazardous chemicals which are frequently transported by road form the subject matter in a series of cards issued by the Chemical Industry Association.

The cards, known as Tremcards (Transport-Emergency Card), are intended to be given to the driver for placing in his cab so that in the case of an accident the police or firemen will know what to do. In many Continental countries the driver is required to have such instructions on international journeys.

Introducing the cards, Mr J. H. Townsend (president CIA), said last week that the UK record of freedom from accidents was "none too bad" but added "nevertheless we cannot be complacent and we have to be ready to deal with hazards when they crop up in abnormal circumstances".

It is expected that the present series will be extended in the near future.

Pollen vitamin aids fitness

The results of the first year's work carried out by Dr Bernardo on the effects of highly-concentrated pollen vitamin supplements on sportsmen were presented at a symposium on "Nutrition and the World Class Sportsman" in Helsingborg, Sweden, recently.

The report contained data showing the type of diets and

supplements used by nine Italian football clubs, including Inter Milan, Verona and Vicente from Division 1, all of whom were found to have improved in fitness and stamina, and ended the season higher in the league.

Finnish athletes have also been involved in tests and the Olympic head coach reported that he now had 10 potential gold medallists among middle and long distance running competitors.

Attending the conference were Arsenal's medical adviser, Dr John Crane and Cilla Lord, nutritional advisor to the British Association of Sport and Medicine.

Irish news

Irish pharmacists running success

Ireland's wonder runner, Mary Tracey, the 23-year-old Dublin pharmacist, made history on Saturday when she became the first Irish winner of the British Women's A.A.A. 800 metres title which she won from a star-studded international field at Crystal Palace, London.

Mary is attached to Leo Laboratories' Ltd, pharmaceutical manufacturers, Cashel Road, Dublin. Her father, also a pharmacist and a member of the Irish Chemists' Golfing Society, has a pharmacy in Eden Quay, Dublin. Mary's wonderful achievement was widely hailed in Dublin but by none more than her pharmaceutical colleagues.

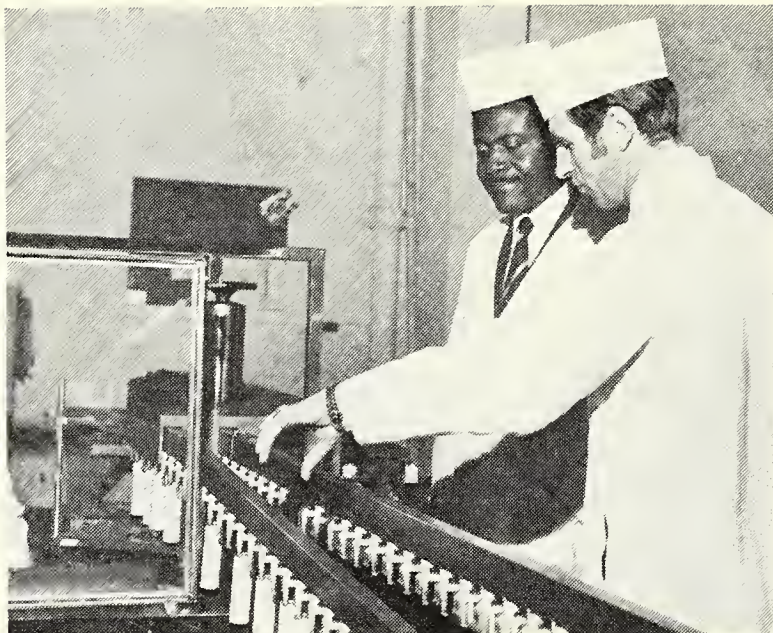
COMPANY NEWS

Morson bow out of inorganics

Thomas Morson & Co Ltd are stopping production of their range of inorganic chemicals from September 29. An announcement made last week by the company, which is part of Merck Sharp & Dohme Ltd, stated that the plant would continue to manufacture pharmaceutical chemicals on behalf of M S & D but the trading title would be discontinued.

The announcement added: "The inorganic side of the business has become a non-viable proposition and is expected to continue to deteriorate badly." As a result 70 employees have been given three months' notice but "every effort will be made to ensure that they obtain suitable employment."

Among the items which Morson have been famous for



Operations director of William R. Warner, Mr. W. P. Butler, showing one of the company's production lines to the Ambassador for Zaire (story this page)

over many decades and which will no longer be supplied are glycerophosphates and bromine derivatives.

Warner Lambert in Africa

The Warner Lambert group of companies have recently acquired a pharmaceutical company in Kinshasa, the capital of

Zaire (formerly the Congo). In appreciation of the goodwill and co-operation extended by officials in Zaire during the negotiations the company invited the country's Ambassador to the UK, Mr Theodore Idzumbur, to the Eastleigh, Hants, plant of William R. Warner & Co Ltd where he was welcomed by Mr W. J. Curtis (chairman) and Mr H. C. Graham, regional director for Warner Lambert International.

Sangers report progress

Mr H. T. Nicholson, chairman, Sangers Ltd, told the annual meeting of shareholders on Wednesday that a new branch had been opened at Twickenham in June and a further three branches would be opened in the current year.

Sales in the current year to date have increased by 17 per cent over last year and this should lead to "higher profits with an increased dividend".

Tesco interested in superstores

Tesco, the supermarket group, are still very much interested in the development of superstores as part of their expansion programme.

The group has one planning appeal with the Minister for the Environment and the dates of two more have yet to be fixed.

Mr Hyman Kreitman, Tesco's chairman, states that he is confident that the disquiet by local and national authorities that the superstores could mean death to the High Street is "entirely misplaced".

Swiss group's UK foothold

Genetic Pharmaceuticals (UK) Ltd who have just launched their first three products in the United Kingdom (last week p 39) is 50 per cent owned by a Swiss group which has the option of taking up more shares at a later date.

The British director, Mr H. Morris, told *C&D* this week that the products launched were made in the UK. In the pipeline there were about five or six products the fruits of the Swiss group's research. One of these, an anti-inflammatory, had been on chemical trial and it was hoped that it would be on the market before the end of the year.

Another record year for ICFC

Gross investment by Industrial & Commercial Finance Corporation again reached record levels in the year ended March 31, in spite of easier credit conditions and an unfavourable climate for investment. The group's gross investment was over £36m, bringing current investment to £170.3m.

Investment in high technology projects, through Technical Development Capital Ltd, accounted for £2.1m—bringing the total currently invested to over £7m in 120 companies.

The names of companies financed by ICFC include a number of well known pharmaceutical companies.

In brief

United Drug Ayrton (Dublin) Ltd: Following their acquisition of Ayrton Saunders (Dublin) Ltd during May, United Drug and Chemical Co Ltd announce that the name of their new Dublin subsidiary is to be changed to United Drug Ayrton (Dublin) Ltd. United Drug Ayrton have acquired larger premises at Distillery Road, Dublin and will shortly operate from that address.

Syntex Pharmaceuticals Ltd: During the first ten months of the current trading year the company's sales exceeded £1m, thereby equalling the total sales for the whole of the previous trading year. Export business doubled to represent 40 per cent of current turnover.

Woolcombers Ltd are closing their office at Duckworth Lane, Bradford. All communications should be sent to PO Box 227, Fairweather Green Mills, Thornton Road, Bradford BD8 0HJ (Bradford 42255).

SANGERS LIMITED

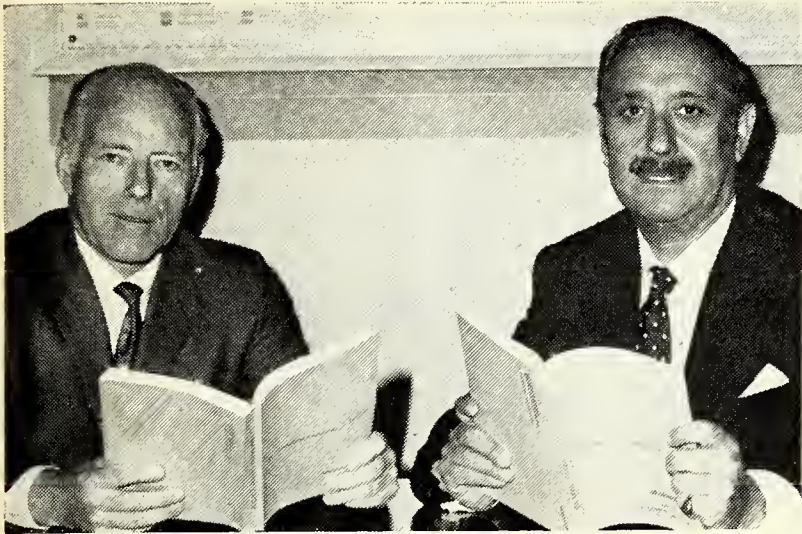
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN, MR. H. T. NICHOLSON

- Profit before Tax up 36% to a new record of £1.215m.
- Dividend proposed up by 44% to 6.5p per share.
- A new branch at Twickenham opened in June, and it is planned to open a further three new branches in the current year.
- Our thanks to our customers (many of whom are stockholders) for their continued support, which we will strive always to merit.
- Sales in the current year have continued to increase, which should lead to higher profits with an increased dividend.

SALIENT FIGURES FROM THE ACCOUNTS

Years to end of February	1972	1971
	£	£
Sales	31,259,000	27,352,000
Profit before Tax	1,215,000	893,000
Profit after Tax	720,000	531,000
Retained Profit	306,000	232,000
Rate of Ordinary Dividend	26.0%	18.0%
Times covered	1.8	1.9

The Report and Accounts for the year ended 29th February, 1972, were approved at the Annual General Meeting held on 12th July 1972.



Dr Fred Wrigley, deputy chairman, Wellcome Foundation Ltd (left), and Mr Harry Mendelson, group personnel manager—who have been named as the first adjunct professors of the University of East Carolina to be appointed from outside the United States. They will give lectures whenever visits can be fitted in with their work for the Foundation. Both are pharmacists

PEOPLE

Mr W. R. C. Parker, BSc (Econ), MPS, group pharmacist of Netherne and Fairdene Hospitals, Coulsdon, Surrey, is retiring on September 30 after 23 years' service in his present position.

Mr Eric Tweedale, MPS, who recently retired from his pharmacy in Nantwich Road, Crewe, Ches, has been re-elected president of Crewe Music and Arts Society with which he has long been connected.

Mr Eric A. G. Morgan, MA, MIEx, whose book on marketing of branded goods has just been published (p 75) is chairman of Yardley & Co Ltd and managing director of British-American Cosmetics Ltd.

Formerly, Mr Morgan spent 8 years in Sterling Drug (he was chairman of the Phillips Scott and Turner division in the UK and Europe) and 10 years with the overseas division of Proctor and Gamble.

Deaths

Camps: On July 8, Francis E. Camps, emeritus professor of forensic medicine at London Hospital Medical College, aged 67. Apart from his fame in forensic medicine Professor Camps was known to pharmacists for his addresses to many of the Pharmaceutical Society's branches on the subject "Poisoning—accident, suicide or murder?"

Couse: Mr Robert Couse, Quinnsboro' Road, Bray, co Wicklow, recently. He registered as a pharmacist in the Republic of Ireland in 1925. A native of Kilkenny, he was attached to Hayes, Conyngham and Robinsons' pharmacy in Bray for many years.

Dougan: Recently Mr Patrick John Dougan, registered druggist, Clonmel. He conducted a pharmacy at O'Connell Street, Clonmel, for many years. Mr Dougan qualified as a druggist in 1926.

McCulloch: On July 5, Mr John McCulloch, 55 Dean Road, Bo'ness, Linlithgowshire, aged 78. Mr McCulloch qualified as a pharmacist in 1919.

O'Callaghan: Mr Edmund Aloysius O'Callaghan, MPSI, 237, Griffith Avenue, Dublin. He qualified in 1933 and worked in Australia for a number of years. On his return about six years ago, he purchased the Cremore pharmacy, Glasnevin, Dublin, which he conducted for some time before disposing of it.

Priestman: Mr Frank E. Priestman, 37 Morehampton Terrace, Donnybrook, Dublin, recently. For many years he was manager of Prices' Medical Hall, Clare Street, Dublin, and later was a pharmacist attached to the National Children's hospital, Harcourt Street, Dublin. He registered in the Republic in 1914.

Slattery: Mr Denis C. Slattery, Main Street, Dungarvan, co Waterford. He registered as a pharmacist in the Republic of Ireland in 1919. Mr Slattery, was manager of Nolan's pharmacy, Main Street, Dungarvan, for many years.

Topical reflections by Xrayser

Drug houses

Words come to acquire different meanings with the passage of the years. The thought occurred on reading your report of the meeting of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy where the speaker made reference to the "pharmacist-entrepreneur", and I imagine that nothing more was meant than an enterprising manufacturer, and not necessarily a gambler, though in the birth pangs of the drug industry there may have been an element of chance.

Yet the time was ripe for replacing small-scale and individual manufacturing in the pharmacy with something a little more ambitious in which the advent of machinery could be harnessed as it had been in other fields. (That I was still, a century or more later, pounding drugs in an iron mortar has little to do with the case.)

It would be of interest to learn how many manufacturing houses there were at the peak in the 19th and 20th centuries, for there were few towns of appreciable size which did not have their own local enterprise, and so long as there was a reasonable outlet for galenicals principally of vegetable origin, there was scope for their energies and for keen competition in the matter of price and quality. It was only in recent times, with the upsurge in the use of complicated chemical products and the emergence of specific treatments that the picture underwent dramatic change and the smaller houses ceased to find a market for their wares, becoming in the twilight of their existence mere distributors of products manufactured elsewhere.

The change was gradual and almost imperceptible in the beginning, and I imagine I was not alone in discovering that certain vegetable tinctures which had been ordered with un-failing regularity were latterly found unopened after a period of three months. Medical practice had undergone a complete change, and the small manufacturing houses, with a long and honoured history, began to disappear from the scene.

Expansion and shrinkage

There were closures, there were amalgamations, and the manufacture of the galenicals still in use became concentrated in fewer and fewer hands, and one of the consequences which I have regretted is the almost total disappearance of time-honoured names which had seemed as permanent as Gilbert & Sullivan.

Gone are the days when tall-hatted ambassadors of commerce used their skill and knowledge—and both were considerable—to convince us of the superiority of their liquid extract of cascara, or of the blandness of their olive oil. And they arrived on foot, in contrast to their successors who dash bareheaded from a car—when they deign to come at all—to tell us what they have been "detailing" to the local physicians, exuding a confidence in their powers of persuasion not always justified by results.

Submergence

Fortunately, before it was too late, L. G. Matthews, in his *History of Pharmacy in Britain*, recorded some of the story of the drug houses and the names of the pharmacists of note who were their founders. While circumstances may have made mergers inevitable, it seems a pity that Evans should have been denuded of Lescher and Webb, one of whom I remember, and that Butler and Thomson are no longer with Willows and Francis.

NEW PRODUCTS AND PACKS

Cosmetics and toiletries

Toilet soap 'advance'

Weddel Pharmaceuticals Ltd are to introduce Derl toilet soap (£0.09½) which is claimed to represent a substantial advance in the field of medicated toilet soaps.

The 2½oz tablets contain the sodium salt of the sulphosuccinate of undecylenic monoalkylolamide and 2, 4, 4'-trichloro-2'-hydroxydiphenylether, which together are said to produce a synergistic combination highly effective in killing the bacteria responsible for unpleasant body odours and many harmful organisms.

Apart from its germicidal properties, the product contains lanolin which preserves the natural skin oils, produces a rich soft lather and is mildly perfumed (Weddel Pharmaceuticals Ltd, 14 West Smithfield, London EC1).

Waterfall bubble bath

This month sees the introduction of Waterfall bubble bath presented in 30cc containers (£0.05). It is available in three fragrances, pine, lavender and floral (Dendron Distributors Ltd, 94 Rickmansworth Road, Watford, Herts WD1 7JJ).

Cheramy perfumes launched

Cheramy of Paris have launched their Sandrine fragrance, which blends hyacinth, narcissus, lilac and lily of the valley with a hint of fresh mosses, sandalwood and jasmin in the bouquet.

Aimed at the middle-priced bracket, the range has been sold in France for two years and consists of perfume in 4.3ml (£0.95) and 7ml (£2.40) bottles, handbag perfume spray in a 6g (£3.10) container, with refill (£2.25), 30g mini spray (£1.15) and 55ml toilet water (£1.60). All these which have been sold since last month will be joined from September 11 by ½oz perfume (£4.10) and toilet 65g perfume spray (£2.25).

This is the first Cheramy fragrance to be introduced to the UK and marks the L'Oreal organisation's entry into the perfume market. To back the launch, there are introductory booklets available to the trade for distribution to the public, merchandising material reflecting the packaging



design and three discount parcels (Golden Ltd, Berkeley Square House, Berkeley Square, London W1).

Antiseptic Wipes

Elastoplast are introducing Antiseptic Wipes (£0.16) for the treatment of minor cuts and grazes. The soft, moist antiseptic tissues are 4in by 5½in in size and sealed in individual sachets and packed in 10s.

Each "wipe" contains a bactericide—cetrimide 1 per cent and Isopropanol 10 per cent. Individual sachets are compact and have concise directions on the outer surface. They can quite easily be carried in a handbag or pocket, in the car, or added to a first aid kit in the home (Smith and Nephew Ltd, Bessemer Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts).

Towards stronger nails

M & R Norton are now importing from France Ecrinal ANP, (£1.50), a cream for nails which contains as its basic ingredient an extract from the horse's man and is free from hormones. It should be massaged around the edges of the nail, lunula and matrix for the effect to show after an estimated eight days (M & R Norton Ltd, Adriant Works, 155 Merton Road, London SW18).

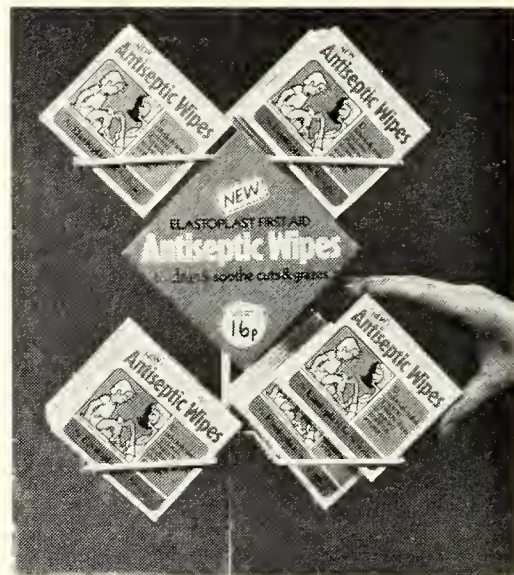
Jacquelle's wise buys

Jacquelle have introduced two further lines to their wise buys for beauty and the bath both presented in 155cc bottles and priced at £0.19. These are glycerine and rosewater fine skin lotion, a delicately perfumed all purpose product for the hands and body and Fresh mint foam bath (Jackel & Co Ltd, Kitty Brewster Estate, Blyth, Northumberland).

More flicks from Coty

Coty are extending their cosmetic "flicks" concept with the introduction of Lip flicks, (£0.49) presented in small containers of marbellised blue with sponge tip applicator, and available in six shades, Cinnamon Shine, Cherry Shine, Pansy Shine, Raspberry Shine, Primrose Shine and Petal Shine.

The first of the products along these lines, Color flicks, have been renamed Eye flicks and will be available in a total of 10 shades including the four newcomers, Frosted Orchid, Frosted Turquoise, Frosted Indigo and Frosted Silver. These items are all due on counter mid-September (Coty Ltd, Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex).



Sundries

Ravina goes nautical

Ravina are introducing a series of pony-tail holders with nautical decorations (£0.30) consisting of a wheel, anchor, sailor or ship (Ravina Ltd, 3 Barton Road, Bletchley, Bucks).

Dietary

Slimmer's soup

Smith and Nephew are now selling in to the Southern television area Gourmovita (£0.60 for three sachets), a soup which gives less than 90 calories for each serving and is said to replace a meal of about 900 calories.

It is available in three flavours, country tomato, thick vegetable and oxtail, is claimed to contain 11 essential vitamins and minerals, and requires only the addition of boiling water. To support the launch, advertising begins in September on television and in *Woman*, *Woman's Realm*, *Woman's Weekly* and *Reader's Digest*, while a team of girls will give a series of presentations to local slimming clubs in the area and there will be display material and an offer to the consumer on one free meal per pack. National distribution is expected to begin early next year (Smith & Nephew Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Bessemer Road, Welwyn Garden City).

PRESCRIPTION SPECIALITIES

FESOVIT Spansules

Manufacturer Smith, Kline & French Laboratories Ltd, Welwyn Garden City, Herts

Description Clear/yellow hard gelatin capsules each containing dried ferrous sulphate 150mg in sustained-release form and ascorbic acid 50mg, aneurine mononitrate 2mg, riboflavin 2mg, pyridoxine hydrochloride 1mg, nicotinamide 10mg and calcium pantothenate 2.17 mg

Indications Iron-deficiency anaemia in nutritionally stressed patients

Packs Of 30 (£0.38 trade) and 250 (£2.74)

Issued July 17, 1972

TRADE NEWS

Another 'consignment' concession

André Philippe Ltd, 71 Gowan Avenue, Fulham, London SW6 6RJ, have received acknowledgement from their purchase tax officer that they may now invoice goods on a sale or return (consignment) basis to customers requesting this arrangement.

P-D & Co: Eire distribution change

With effect from August 1 the distribution of Parke-Davis products in the Republic of Ireland will be carried out by Warner-Lambert Ireland Ltd, Abbey Road, Blackrock, co Dublin (telephone: (01) 808416).

As a result of the re-organisation of distributive arrangements, the Parke-Davis information office will be moved to PO Box Dun Laoghaire No 6, Pottery Road, Dun Laoghaire, co Dublin (telephone: (01) 853491) as from July 18.

Redesigned Trufood label

Supplies of Trufood cans with the new labelling which conforms to the regulations to come into force on January 1, 1973, are currently being sold in.

The wording, complying with the ruling to give a legal designation for the product, prominently displayed on the container, is "A blend of whey, cream and skimmed milk with essential vitamins spray dried into a fine powder". The manufacturers, Trufood Ltd, Guildford, Surrey, state that this does not represent any change in the product's formulation.

Arden's Autumn eyes

Elizabeth Arden Ltd, 20 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AE are promoting their Self-Portrait Eyes Autumn eye collection which includes Creamy Lash Color (£1.35) and refill and Liquid-Cream eyeliner (£0.85) in Very Black, Very Brown, Very Burgundy, Very Navy and Very Pewter.

Eye shadows come either in single Burgundy compacts (£1.25) in Powder-cream (five shades) Powderfrost (13 shades) and Ultrafrost (six shades) or in double packs, known as Shadow II (£1.45). This range comprises Brook Blue/Inkberry Blue, Meadowmint/Boston Ivy, Brook Blue/Meadowmint, Inkberry Blue/Boston Ivy, Wild Honey/Good Earth and Real Yellow/Terracotta. These products are due on sale on September 1.

Messire in Harrods

Jean D'Albret Orlane Ltd, 125 High Holborn, London WC1V 6BR, are introducing to Harrods exclusively the Messire range for men. This consists of Eau de Cologne atomiser (£4.50), Eau de Toilette atomiser (£5.50), Creme a Raser (£1.25) for pre-electric shaving in foam and non-

foam variants, Lotion after shave (£4.50) in normal/oily and sensitive versions, Lait after shave with alcohol (£3), Lacto-Derme (£2), deodorant (£1.95) and soap (£3 for box of 3).

Minolta handbook

Japanese Cameras Ltd, 50 Piccadilly, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, have produced a 520 looseleaf Minolta system handbook, which describes and illustrates the lenses and accessories in the Minolta SR system and explains their functions (£8.75).

New discount for Unichem members

Unichem Ltd, Crown House, Morden, Surrey, are to offer their members discounts of 15-30 per cent on a range of seasonal fast-moving lines and will be able to increase this by an extra 5 per cent with orders of specified quantities. This is in addition to the regular monthly promotions which Unichem offer.

The range covers about 50 brand leading products and includes Body Mist, Colgate toothpaste, Cooltan, Cool aerosol, Mum Rollette, Odo-Ro-No and Vaseline shampoo.

Large Cedar Wood

Goya Ltd, Badminton Court, Amersham, Bucks, have introduced a large size after shave (£0.60) in the Cedar Wood range. It is presented in a 205cc fluted glass bottle and is being offered during the introductory period at £0.55.

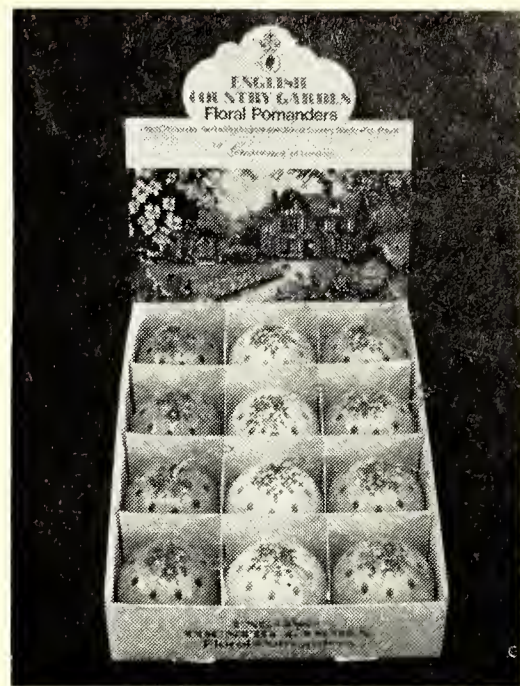
Crystapen and Adexolin changes

Glaxo Laboratories Ltd, Greenford, Middlesex, have discontinued Crystapen G 250mg plain tablets. 500 Crystapen G 250mg film-coated tablets continue to be available.

Adexolin liquid (vitamins A and D) has also been discontinued. New Adexolin liquid (vitamins A, D and C) continue to be available.

Almay's new shades

Almay Cosmetics, Bath Road, Slough, Bucks, are selling in to the trade their new shades for Autumn which include Sun Beige, Sun Golden and Sun Tawny in complete and liquid make-up. Their Peach and Rose shades of blusher are now joined under the banner Hush Blush by Cinnamon and Tawny in slim white



Polystyrene pomanders (£0.35), filled with various fragrances of pot-pourri, are being distributed in these display outers by Grosvenor Perfumery Co Ltd, 71 Gloucester Road, Croydon

compacts (£1.10) with refills (£0.35). These additions are supported by advertising between the end of August and October in *Vogue*, *Flair*, *19*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Woman's Own* and *Honey*.

New beauty magazines

Two new beauty magazines are to make their debut this autumn; a monthly called *Beauty Plus*, which will cost £0.20 and will include material on methods of cosmetic application, and a bi-monthly, *Tomorrow's Woman*, costing £0.25. Each issue of the latter will be devoted to a different subject, the first being hair and beauty.

Progesterone derivatives

Andard-Mount (London) Ltd, Burlington Works, Tudor Estate, Park Royal, London NW10, are now holding in stock from Steromex of Mexico, supplies of medroxy progesterone acetate and hydroxy progesterone Caproate. Both are available in purified form on "commercially interesting" terms.

Christmas showrooms

Jackel & Co Ltd at Royal Avenue Hotel, Belfast, July 24-27; Northern Counties Hotel, Portrush, August 1-3; Seagoe Hotel, Portadown, August 8-10.

Bonus offers

Genethic Pharmaceuticals (UK) Ltd, Abbey Life House, St Paul's Churchyard, London EC4. Iprogen, Tetrigen and Penagen. Six invoiced as five (until August 30).

Weddel Pharmaceuticals Ltd, 14 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9HY. Derl medicated toilet soap. Introductory offer of 12 tablets invoiced as 10 on a minimum order of four dozen tablets (until September 30).

PROMOTIONS

R & C summer offers

Reckitt and Colman are currently running offers on two toiletry products—Loxene and Nulon. The shampoo, re-launched last September and claimed to be the number two medicated preparation carries flashes of "at least 2½p off" on the £0.19 size with one free children's story and "at least 4p off" with two free children's stories on the £0.27 size.

Both the lemon and pink variations of Nulon carry collarettes announcing the offer which consists of the customer sending two of these in return for a voucher to be exchanged by the retailer for a free bottle of the handbag size of the product. This is supported by merchandising material (Reckitt & Colman toiletries division, Sunnysdale, Derby).

Aspro on the buses

For the next six months, Aspro is being advertised on bus-sides in London and 36 provincial areas with the theme "For the nowhere to park headache" (Aspro Nicholas Ltd, 225 Bath Road, Slough, Bucks).

Macleans to dentists

Display units containing 12 sample tubes of Macleans White Fluoride, 50 printed appointment cards and 50 explanatory leaflets are being distributed to 10,000 dentists in the UK.

These are designed to explain to patients the benefits of a fluoride based toothpaste and dental care in general, and is expected to bring an increased demand for the brand through chemists. Therefore, Beecham have produced new merchandising material and counter units to hold nine large tubes and a leaflet dispenser (pictured below).

□ Silvikrin, also from Beecham, is to be featured in what is claimed to be the largest continuous campaign of its kind in *Woman's Own*, with 27 full pages in consecutive issues between May 27 and November 5 providing 3½ million women in the 16 to 24 age bracket the opportunity to see the advertisement 23 times during the campaign (Beecham toiletry division, Beecham House, Brentford, Middlesex).



Summer slimming

Crookes Anestan are currently running offers for their artificial sweeteners, Sweetex and Hermetas. The 500-size of the former is being presented in an orange blister pack with two free sachets of Coffee-mate, the powder creamer made by Carnation, while Hermetas offers "100 extra free" on their 300 and 650 sizes (Crookes Anestan Ltd, 1 Thane Road, West, Nottingham).

Kleenex drive

The Kleenex products "Bullion train" (C&D, May 27 p732) goes on national television this month to herald the consumer stage of Kimberly-Clark's biggest-ever promotion.

The first stage was launched during the last two weeks of May when the gold painted train made a tour to 12 major cities in England and Scotland to introduce the promotion to buyers.

Television advertising breaks the last week of July and the first week of August. Using the theme "Board the Kleenex bullion train," a 15-second commercial will feature the train loaded with prizes—colour TVs, washing machines, watches, and hairdriers—and Kleenex products.

A consumer competition is being promoted on Kleenex for Men tissues. Kleenex toilet tissue, Kleenex Flair towels and Kleenex kitchen towels. There will be £15,000 worth of prizes. During the competition a team of "Bullion girls" will be making calls on 2,500 stores to present facsimile "Bullion bars" and numbered certificates to managers who are displaying Kleenex products. Later the certificates will be put into a draw and the ten winning store managers will receive a prize to the value of a real gold bullion bar of 14,294 troy ounces. At current rates it will be worth £271 (Kimberly-Clark Ltd, Larkfield, nr Maidstone, Kent).

Savlon competition

Parents with a child under three years old on September 30, this year are eligible to enter ICI's Savlon Future Care competition, which is set up with an insurance group and will give an income between the ages of 13 and 18 years and a cash payment at 18, the total value being up to £12,000. Entry forms are distributed through dispensers in pharmacy

outlets and department stores (Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd, pharmaceuticals division, Alderley Park, Macclesfield, Cheshire).

Consumer offers

□ Monsieur de Givenchy special ½oz size Eau de Toilette banded with the 2oz after shave lotion for £1.60 due on sale in August. Counter units containing 12 clear view carton packs of the offer are currently being sold in to the trade (Parfums Givenchy Ltd, 2 Station Yard, Twickenham, Middlesex).

The orange and black insulated mug which is being offered to chemists' assistants with the card listing five reasons for recommending Complan. This gift is being distributed mainly by representatives (Glaxo Laboratories Ltd, Greenford, Middlesex)



ON TV NEXT WEEK

Ln = London; M = Midland; Lc = Lancashire; Y = Yorkshire; Sc = Scotland; WW = Wales and West; So = South; NE = North-east; A = Anglia; U = Ulster; We = Westward; B = Border; G = Grampian; E = Eireann; CI = Channel Islands.

Alka-Seltzer: All areas

Aquasil: So

Clinomyn: So

Close-up: All except E

Feel free: All except E

Femfresh: Ln

Harmony Protein Plus: All except E

Hedex: All except U, E

Lil-lets: Ln

Milk of Magnesia liquid: All except U, E

Optrex: All except U, E, CI

Polaroid Super Swinger cameras: All areas

Poligrip: M, Lc, Y, Sc, So, NE, G, CI

Rennies: All except U, E

Right Guard: All except E

Saxin: Lo, M, WW, A

Signal: Lo, WW, So, NE, A, U, We, B, CI

SR: All except E

Sunsilk hairspray: All except E

Sure: All except E

TCP liquid: All except E, CI

Tegrin medicated shampoo: All except E

US antiperspirant: All except U, E

Zoflora: M, Lc, Y, NE, U

Zubes honey and lemon: Ln, M, So

Aspirin — paracetamol: a new form of combination therapy

But for gastric dyspepsia and erosion, and occult bleeding during long term therapy, acetylsalicylic acid might be almost unsurpassable in the treatment of rheumatoid diseases.

At Sterling Winthrop's research and development division, Newcastle, nine years ago Mr Andrew Robertson, their associate director, faced up to this problem with the idea of combining it with another molecule for safe absorption and subsequent metabolic breakdown.

Evidence existed that it was the carboxyl grouping of the aspirin molecule which was responsible for the serious side effects.

Why not combine the carboxyl part with another substance, Mr Robertson asked. Having spent several years working on paracetamol the thought struck him of *chemically* combining the two so that the body received aspirin in a safe form and in addition paracetamol for rheumatoid therapy.

His proposal although simple in concept proved difficult to carry out, but now the company is soon to make generally available Benoral, 4-acetamidophenyl O-acetylsalicylate, or benorylate, a new analgesic, antipyretic and anti-inflammatory.

Benoral made by an esterification reaction is a white, odourless and tasteless crystalline substance which is virtually insoluble in water. It is readily absorbed from the gastro-intestinal tract probably because it is lipid soluble over a wide range of pH (aspirin is only rapidly absorbed at a low pH).

Absorption and excretion studies suggest that patients should experience greater relief of early morning pain with Benoral than with ordinary analgesic treatment. The drug has a longer action compared with a mixture of aspirin and

paracetamol probably due to its gradual absorption and possibly also to storage within the body of unchanged benorylate.

That prolonged effect makes administration possible on a twice daily basis.

In another study the effect of benorylate on faecal blood loss was estimated using a method of labelling erythrocytes with radio-active chromium.

Blood losses in patients taking benorylate were within normal limits compared with a mean loss of just over 5ml daily for patients on aspirin. 11 patients on aspirin, but only two on benorylate lost more than 3ml of blood per day.

To cope with the water insolubility property (as both water and lipid solubility play their part in absorption across membranes) the substance is milled down to an average particle size of only five microns. This gives the powder a very large surface area for faster dissolution.

For manufacture measurement of particle surface area has been chosen as a control procedure rather than particle size measurement. It is performed using a Strohlein area meter. The method depends upon a relationship between the surface area of a powder and the amount of nitrogen which that surface can adsorb.

From the nature of the molecules involved it was clear from the outset of production that impurities arising from competing reactions would pose major control problems. Added difficulties were the need for precise control of surface area and for the absence of any significant colour in the final product (many

substances related to paracetamol are highly coloured).

A powder in such a fine state does not behave in bulk like ordinary powders. It tends to adsorb between particles large quantities of air and as such exhibits the properties of a fluid. High static forces are often involved. Those characteristics are overcome by the use of a wetting agent to modify surface properties and compounding operations are carried out under vacuum to reduce the trapped air problem.

During formulation work 30-40 excipients were looked at for possible use in a tablet or suspension form. The research and development division decided on a 40 per cent w/v suspension for the product, containing 4g benorylate in 10ml.

In its final form the suspension, a partially flocculated system, is thixotropic. Little shaking is required before administration.

With the needs of the arthritic whose manual dexterity is impaired in mind the plastic suspension container has a recess at the point of balance to make it easy to hold. The one-piece plastic closure has a wide lifting tab for easy opening and is retained by a connecting strap.

Because some patients have difficulty in handling the standard 5ml spoon Sterling-Winthrop provide a graduated beaker. Containers were tested at the Mount Vernon Hospital with the help of members of the British Rheumatism and Arthritis Association.

The company are cautiously optimistic about their new product, and expect to see considerable benefit to patients on Benoral therapy at the beginning of the day when they normally experience considerable difficulties and sometimes pain. Already those involved describe women who no longer have to be helped out of bed in the morning by their husbands but get up themselves.

Information on the product is available to general practice pharmacists from the company.

Testing particle surface area with nitrogen (right) and administration (below)



Barclay Securities Limited

1971 RESULTS

- * ONE FOR TWO BONUS ISSUE.
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- * EARNINGS INCREASED by 70% per share.
- * DIVIDEND INCREASE of 33% for 1971.
50% INCREASED DIVIDENDS FORECAST FOR 1972.

FIVE YEAR RESULTS 1967 TO 1971 SHOW:

EARNINGS per share INCREASED by $8\frac{1}{2}$ times.

ASSETS per share INCREASED by 4 times.

DIVIDENDS MULTIPLIED FOURFOLD.

Cash resources exceed £10 million and increasing.

Expansion planned for Europe and Overseas.

Higher earnings confidently expected for the current year.

The Chairman, Mr. John Bentley, reported that:

"These results establish Barclay Securities as one of the leading growth organisations in the U.K."

Barclay Securities is an Investment Holding Company. Investments include interests in Pharmaceuticals, Toys, Media and Property.

Copies of the latest Report and Accounts can be obtained from The Secretary, Barclay Securities Ltd., 32 Curzon Street, London, W1Y 8BS.

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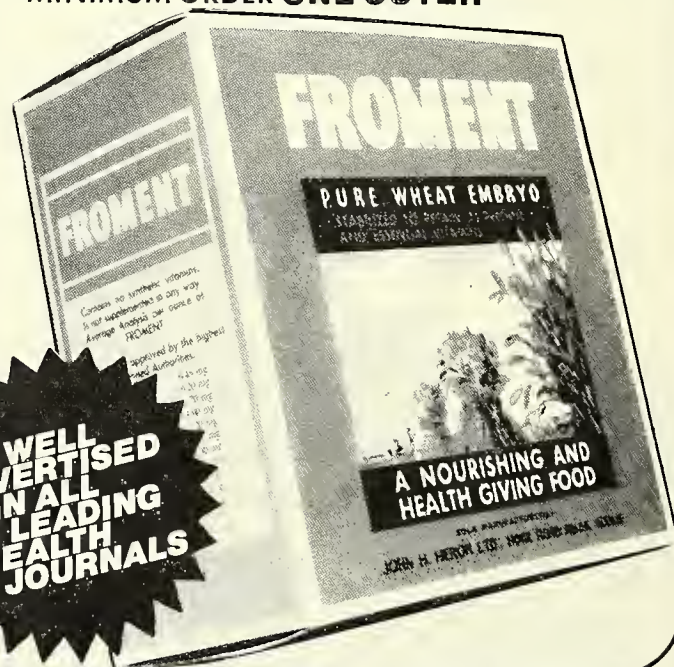
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COMMENT

Advertising standards and practice

Those in the advertising industry who accept the industry's code of practice should also be required to adhere to it, contends the Retail Trading-Standards Association in its latest news bulletin.

What concerns the RTSA is the growth of "pernicious practices" which evade the requirements of the Trade Descriptions Act, casting doubt on the code's effectiveness, and the recommendation by manufacturers of prices "far beyond those which would be charged by any retailer" as a means of helping some traders to give the impression that the goods are being almost given away to the public.

In both these categories, the RTSA's main target would be, presumably, the goods offered "direct" to the public—the Consumers' Association's recent attack on slimming aids advertising claims is cited, and there is reference to the claims made by retail and postal "bargain" advertisers that identical goods are being sold in other sections of the trade at higher prices. The answer, according to the RTSA, is a period during which media would demand in-depth substantiation of suspect claims before publication—"to hell with the revenue. Deceit and cunning would soon give way to the need to advertise—even if honestly!"

But is there really justification for laying every fault of the advertiser at the door of the advertising industry—

and its remedy at the feet of the media? *C&D* has itself on occasion had to refuse advertising, or to seek the amendment of copy which it believed would break the recognised codes of practice, and similar action is taken by others. What "in-depth" substantiation would the RTSA require? Could the media accept a sheaf of testimonials—or must it demand, for example, an "independent, prospective, double-blind, cross-over study" that the goods are fit for their claimed purpose?

In general, the advertising industry requires a very high standard from those who use its services, and sets those standards in consultation with the industries concerned. And none are set higher standards than the medicine manufacturers, who, through the effectiveness of the Proprietary Association of Great Britain, have led the world in voluntary control.

Nevertheless, products do reach the retailer bearing claims that close scrutiny would call in question. Here, we think, the trade organisations have a major role to play, for they can advise members when a doubtful claim emerges. This should not be restricted to any one trade—indeed, by exchange of information, the various organisations might ensure more effectively than the media that suspect products do not reach the public.

The alternative may be restrictive legislation that would benefit neither the honest advertiser nor the retailer.

LETTERS

Planned — in part?

With reference to your report on changing methods of contraception as shown by a recent survey in Hull (*C&D* July 8), one cannot fail to be fascinated by the statement "of the 577 pregnancies occurring during the survey *exactly* two thirds were planned".

One is unfortunately left to guess how the pregnancy occurred which was apparently two-thirds planned and one-third unplanned.

I. S. Benjamin
Biggin Hill, Kent

agencies and any group with a special interest in the consumer.

With marketing, as with many other disciplines, much of the rationale is plain common sense. Yet how often the latter seems to become obscured in mumbo-jumbo red tape of business affairs today. Mr Morgan in this readable book seeks to overcome this and at the outset defines his favourite definition of marketing as "the art, science and practice of bringing the right goods or services to the customer in the most efficient and profitable way".

Throughout the book the author stresses the importance of the consumer and his or her viewpoint. Thus "never try to fool the consumer if you want to stay in the repeat purchase business. Quite apart from the morals involved, you will go broke" and "you must know what it is that people think they are buying even if this differs from your own idea of what you are selling them!"

Publications received

World Patent Law and Practice. Third cumulative supplement. J. W. Baxter. Sweet & Maxwell Ltd, 11 New Fetter Lane, London EC4. 9×6in. £1-25.

BOOKS

How to do business in branded goods. Eric A. G. Morgan. Longman Group Ltd, 74 Grosvenor Street, London W1. 8 x 5in. Pp 161. £2.25.

Eric Morgan's book is the first of five books in an "off beat" series on marketing and advertising published by Longmans, all the authors being practising business men. In this particular book the author writes for the manufacturer and distributor of branded goods, with a secondary target of professional people, government administrators, advertising

third Mr Jack Martin (11) 36. Other prize winners: 14 and under, Mr Pierce Power (10-2) 35; 15 and over, Mr David Barrow (20) 35; special, Mr George Jamieson (20) 34; first nine, Mr John Seadon (14) 17; and second nine, Mr Ted Jobling (8) 18.

Winner of the Evans Medical cup at the annual open golf tournament sponsored by the Swansea and West Glamorgan Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society was Mr D. Gwynne Jones, area inspector of the Society.

Mr Frank McGeown, field sales manager of Polaroid (UK) Ltd's photographic division, with the Oliver Trophy, won at the golf tournament organised by the company's club, Polaswing, and held recently at Biggleswade, Beds. Thirty-two competitors took part in the tournament, the fifth in the club's history



SPORT

South London and Surrey Pharmacists Golfing Society. Winner of the Swindells Memorial trophy at a meeting at Tandridge Golf Club on June 28 was Mr H. Vernon Powell (18-2) 37 (won on last six holes). Second was Mr Alan Smith (22) 37 and

COME TO THE CAMPUS CONFERENCE KEELE : SEPTEMBER 10-15

The North Staffordshire Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain nurtured the desire to be hosts for a British Pharmaceutical Conference for many years. Unfortunately, the area was not able to boast hotels in sufficient number to accommodate a Conference. However, during recent years the requirements of Conference members have changed, and now the majority find student hostel accommodation is of a sufficiently high standard and economical enough to be entirely acceptable.

With Keele University on their doorstep, the members of the Branch are now, in 1972, able to achieve their desire and will be hosts to the Conference September 10 to 15. They will also ensure that Conference members who already are undoubtedly aware of the craftsmanship that exists in the Potteries, will also realise that there is a beautiful surrounding countryside.

Home of the Conference

Keele University celebrating this year its 21st anniversary, has during its existence successfully undergone a metamorphosis from the University College of North Staffordshire to the status of a full University. Sometimes criticised for its isolation, being 2½ miles from Stoke, it is probable that aspect and its complete self-sufficiency will come to be appreciated by Conference members.

Keele was one of the first of the new universities and its growth has been continuous. Altogether, the university owns an estate of 650 acres of park, farm, and woodland, with 46 acres of playing fields and seven lakes.

The unique completeness of the facilities arises from the fact that Keele is different from many other universities in that most of the staff and the students are residential. Academically, there is another difference in that its undergraduates have to attend a four year course that includes some arts and sciences. During the 1972-1977 quinquennium there is to be introduced a three year course that will enable the university to expand from around the 2,000 mark to 3,000.

Another unique academic feature is the "foundation year" which "has been designed to provide for the student the broad context of human knowledge in which his later specialised studies will be set." Lectures throughout the year cover the development, achievements and problems of modern man, and the development of science. In addition, the student is

taught in at least two unfamiliar disciplines, while at the same time his contact with his special interest is maintained. All subjects taught in the university are represented in the "Foundation Year" course.

Three Halls of Residence are available for Conference members:—

HORWOOD HALL to the North-East, which has its own refectory and other amenities.

THE HAWTHORNS—the largest hall of residence—is situated in Keele village. The Conference Committee describe it as a complete unit consisting of small blocks of bedrooms spaced out amongst trees and adjacent to the refectory building, as well as a dining room, lounge, bars, and other facilities.

BARNES HALL is the most central of the residences and like The Hawthorns has washhand basins in all rooms but the members who stay at Barnes will use the catering facilities of the main refectory. Car parking facilities are unusually plentiful. It is anticipated however that Conference members will use the transport facilities provided which will include minibuses within the University campus.

The terms for dinner, bed and breakfast for the period of the Conference, excluding dinners on Sunday, September 10 and Wednesday, September 13, are £17.50. The amenities of the University Sports Centre

The Chancellors' Building



will be available for the energetic, and include squash, badminton and tennis—visitors are encouraged to bring their equipment. The Conference Committee has arranged accommodation at a number of hotels for those who prefer such facilities including the North Stafford Hotel, Stoke-upon-Trent, The Post House, Newcastle-under-Lyme, and the Clayton Lodge Hotel, Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Social functions

No Conference would be complete without a Civic reception, banquet and ball, and during recent years a Conference Club has featured in the programme—but, probably, for the first time—members on Tuesday evening will attend, as guests of the North Staffordshire Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society, an open-air barbeque adjacent to the Trentham Gardens heated swimming pool.

It is rumoured that the Local Committee have been seen carrying out a number of experiments in and around the swimming pool in order to ensure a programme that provides fun for all. The Local Committee are reported to have made special arrangements concerning the weather, but believing it is essential to be prepared for anything that might happen, adequate cover is available even if it rains.

Excursions

The area is synonymous with pottery, and therefore a number of excursions have been arranged to the world famous institutions of Wedgwood, Doulton and Beswick. There is an all-day excursion to the Derbyshire Dales, another to Shugborough Hall with its collection of French furniture, Gawsworth Hall—a half-timbered Tudor Manor, and Blithfield Hall—with its carved oak staircase.

As we go to press the visit to ICI, Macclesfield, has been over-booked, and the Local Committee have arranged an additional visit for the technically minded.

The Conference excursion is to Chester, where members may travel up the River



Dee, visit Chester Zoo, have a guided tour of the City, or merely shop in Chester's famous medieval rows. Later, the Conference will return to Keele for an evening choral concert, by the well-known Bedford Singers in Keele Chapel followed by a "carving" buffet in Keele Old Hall.

Conference film

Many pharmacists have already seen the Conference film that was prepared by the local Conference Committee under the expert guidance of Mr Gerald Mee, FPS. The film has proved a huge success, and not only has it achieved its object of supplying information to prospective members but has helped enormously to stimu-

Halls of residence



Left, the Conference symbol and, above, Keele Hall

late interest in the local Branch, and to foster good relations with the many people concerned behind the scenes. Keele University has purchased copies for use in their own publicity campaign, and the film has been shown in the United States during a publicity programme to encourage American organisations to consider British Universities as unique conference centres.

Conference badge

Much of the Conference literature bears an emblem symbolic of pharmacists in North Staffordshire and includes an outline of the Portland Vase representing pottery—for which the area is famous—

imposed on a carboy bearing the county emblem, the Staffordshire knot.

Legend has it that the knot was designed by some enterprising sheriff to hang three people at once! A more likely explanation is that it originated from the "Wake Knot". A daughter of one of the Earls of Stafford married a descendant of Hereward the Wake, and became Lady of Wake. She died childless in 1143, and left her personal property to her nephew, Humphrey, Earl of Stafford. Her seal which has on it four Wake Knots is now in the British Museum. Humphrey adopted the knot as his personal badge, and gave it to one of his servants and retainers as a livery and means of recognition. It is now widely used as a symbol of Staffordshire by many county organisations including Keele University, the Scout and Guide Movements and the Staffordshire Regiments.

Both the Conference emblem and the badge were designed by Miss Joyce Platt, MPS, a member of the North Staffs Branch and of the local Conference Committee.

The local committee

Unlike many committees that have organised Conferences in previous years the main officers of the North Staffordshire Committee are all engaged in general practice pharmacy.

The chairman is Mr C. E. Turner, FPS, who for an uninterrupted period of 21 years has been Branch Secretary, and was recently awarded the Silver Charter Medal of the Pharmaceutical Society.

The vice-chairman is Mr C. D. Ross, who is currently chairman of the Stoke-upon-Trent Pharmaceutical Committee and a member of the Executive Council. He is organising the entertainments for the social functions and the golf competition.

Contaminated IV fluids: regulations cannot prevent disasters

Forthcoming regulation of the pharmaceutical industry by licence and by inspection will not of itself guarantee freedom from disasters, says the committee appointed to inquire into the circumstances which led to the use of contaminated infusion fluids at Devonport General Hospital earlier this year.

The committee, under the chairmanship of Mr C. M. Clothier and with Dr Frank Hartley and Sir James Howie members, concludes that the fundamental cause of this disaster is to be found in human failings at the manufacturers', Evans Medical, ranging from simple carelessness to poor management of men and plant.

The Committee heard of no imminent technological advance in the field of production of intravenous fluids which will eliminate the need for skilful men devoted to their work, however, and considers that too many people believe that sterilisation of fluids is easily achieved with simple plant operated by men of little skill under a minimum of supervision—"A view of the task which is wrong in every respect."

Lessons are forgotten

The Committee considers that the lessons of the past are apt to be forgotten and that public safety in this as in many other technological fields depends ultimately on untiring vigilance both in industry and by government. Forthcoming regulation of the industry by licence and inspection will not of itself guarantee freedom from similar disasters.

So far as concerns the handling of the incident once it had arisen, the Committee considers that there is no aspect of it that calls for action. "On the contrary, all concerned—that is the hospital authorities, the Department of Health and Social Security and the manufacturers—did all that was within their powers to limit the incident's effect."

The Committee's primary findings of fact are that on the morning of April 6, 1971 a sub-batch numbered D1192C consisting of 5 per cent dextrose infusion fluid was placed in autoclave number 4 in the transfusion unit at Evans Medical, Speke. Of that sub-batch about one-third of the bottles failed to reach sterilising temperature.

This failure was caused by retention of air within the autoclave throughout the sterilising cycle, and there was evidence of this failure to those concerned in that the recording thermometer attached to the autoclave failed to indicate any rise in temperature.

This warning was, however, ignored, in contravention of the operating procedures laid down by Evans Medical, "by no means for the first time," on the ground that the recording thermometers in the department had a history of unreliable operation. Thereafter the sub-batch was processed in autoclave number 4 in reliance on a dial thermometer and pressure

gauge registering from the steam inlet pipe, "a wholly inadequate procedure".

After processing, samples of the sub-batch underwent routine testing which failed to reveal the defective sterilisation, and the sub-batch was released for sale on the signature of the manager of the department in contravention of well-established principles of quality control.

Part of sub-batch D1192C was delivered to the Gibbs, Paignton, Branch, of Vestric Ltd, in June 1971 where it stayed until on February 24 and March 1, 1972 deliveries were made to the Devonport section of the Plymouth General Hospital. In conformity with the procedures laid down at the Devonport Hospital bottles of the sub-batch were taken into use on or about February 29, 1972.

As a result of a succession of untoward reactions in patients at the hospital on March 1, 2 and 3, bottles of the sub-batch came under suspicion and were subjected to bacteriological examination which confirmed on March 4 that they were contaminated.

The hospital authorities, Evans Medical and the Department of Health were immediately warned of the contamination and although it was a Saturday afternoon prompt action was taken to prevent further use of this sub-batch. At this stage action was limited to withdrawal from use, in hospitals in the region, of infusion fluids manufactured by Evans Medical, and to warning the distributors whom Evans Medical believed to be recipients of batch D1192C.

Medicines Commission inquiry

Matters which the Committee recommends should be taken into account by the Medicines Commission as part of its wider inquiry are:

- ☐ the use of plastic containers
- ☐ the use of batch numbers by wholesalers for the purpose of identifying users in connection with recall of products
- ☐ delayed sterility testing
- ☐ the use of membrane filtration in connection with sterility testing
- ☐ the feasibility of incorporating a bacterial filter in the giving sets
- ☐ the need for preventive maintenance (rather than breakdown maintenance) for autoclaving equipment
- ☐ the training of autoclave operators, both generally and on the plant they will be required to use
- ☐ the absence from the "Orange Guide" of guidance on sampling procedures and the need for such guidance or definition of such requirements particularly in re-

spect of procedures appropriate to sterile fluids

☐ the prevention of post-process contamination of sterile fluids, particularly at the stages of cooling and of bringing into use

☐ the value and use of spot checks of samples of sterile products after distribution

☐ although the Committee concluded that no action was called for on the handling of this incident, it considers that there is a need for improvement in the arrangements of the Department of Health and Social Security for dealing with emergencies.

Reporting the evidence in more detail, the committee says that Mr Anthony Drummond, an autoclave operator said that the temperature recorder for autoclave number 4 on occasions did not record in the sense that the pen did not move from the baseline. On each occasion he reported this to one of his supervisors who would call in either the instrument technician or the engineer.

Mr Brian Devonport, manager of the transfusion unit, had requested replacement of all six temperature recorders, but for one reason or another this request was not followed up. Although not being able to offer an explanation of how the practice grew up of operating autoclaves when the temperature recorder was not functioning or at any rate appeared not to be functioning, Mr Devonport accepted in evidence his responsibility for it. Staff came to believe that the recorders were unreliable and for this reason established their own procedure.

Three autoclave 'levels'

On April 6, 1971 a batch of 5 per cent dextrose infusion fluid, just over 4,000 bottles, was processed in the autoclaves of the Transfusion Unit, divided into six sub-batches. The number of bottles constituting the sub-batch was 612; these were loaded into two cages, each of which had three levels.

On this day both the supervisor of the solution-making, filling and autoclaving section of the Transfusion Unit, Mr Sefton and the chargehand, Mr Murphy, were absent for different reasons. Thus Mr Devonport, the departmental manager, was singlehanded so far as supervision of the work of this section was concerned, including the operation of the autoclaves.

Mr Drummond gave evidence that on this day he found that the temperature recorder did not indicate the expected rise in temperature. He reported to Mr Devonport, and it seemed clear that both assumed that this was another instance of recorder failure. "With hindsight it is possible to say that there is a probability amounting almost to a certainty that the recorder was functioning and correctly indicating no rise in temperature in the condensate drain." However, autoclaving was continued according to the procedure which had become established in reliance on the dial thermometer indicating a temperature of 240°F and the pressure gauge indicating a pressure of 10 lb per square inch above atmospheric pressure, ignoring the recorder indication.

Discussing why it was later shown that of the bottles recovered from the sub-batch only one third were contaminated, the committee says that the only theory fully consistent with the established facts is that a layer of air was present in the bottom of the autoclave surrounding the lowest of the three layers of bottles, thermally insulating them from the steam in the upper part of the autoclave.

An inspector carried out experiments with the autoclaves in an endeavour to reproduce conditions in which bacteria could survive in bottles at the bottom of the autoclave and yet not in the remainder, during the operation of a sterilising cycle. This result was reproduced only when two conditions were met simultaneously—the drain from the sterilising chamber being blocked and no use being made of the vacuum line partially to remove air before admitting steam.

The inspector found a considerable amount of debris in autoclave number 4, sufficient to indicate to him that cleaning was not being carried out often enough.

During the hearing a number of references were made to the "Orange Guide", a booklet entitled "Guide to Good Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Practice" published for the Government Departments in 1971. However, the committee says that the management of Evans Medical departed from the known principle of quality control in regard to the production of infusion fluids in vital respects.

The principal fault lay in the practice of placing the decision to release a batch for sale in the hands of production staff instead of quality control staff.

A second serious fault lay in the selection of samples for sterility and pyrogen tests, which were selected by production staff. In the absence of firm direction from quality control, samples were in practice selected by production staff only from the top layer in each cage, "no doubt because this was the easiest course".

Management responsibilities

Turning to management, the committee says that Mr Devonport must take some share of the responsibility for the manufacture of the faulty batch. "He is a qualified pharmacist and his training for this qualification covered the theory of sterilisation by means of autoclaves. In spite of his theoretical knowledge he established or allowed to become established a wholly inadequate procedure for operating the autoclaves under his command. He failed to take the obvious managerial step of checking on the actions of his operating staff, tending to rely too much on their supervisor, Mr Sefton. It is clear that he believed the equipment to be faulty and that he brought this to the notice of the engineering department and of his superior, Mr John Smart, the production manager, but the committee considers that faced with the apparent failure of a vital part of the autoclave equipment, Mr Devonport's action lacked the necessary vigour.

"However, it must be said that his background before joining Evans Medical did not include practical knowledge of the operation of autoclaves and that his training for the post of manager of the

transfusion unit was wholly inadequate, apparently consisting of working alongside his predecessor for two weeks or so. Once in the post he appears to have been left to sink or swim, no effort whatever being made by his superiors to discover whether he was capable of performing the functions allotted to him, or of checking how he was discharging them.

"No criticism can be made of him for his role in the selection of samples for sterility testing or in the release of sub-batches for sale; in both of these matters he did no more than continue company practice, and the responsibility must lie with quality control for its failure to establish control of these procedures."

In the committee's view, Mr Smart, the production manager, must bear the major responsibility. The committee was left with the impression that there was little effective contact between Mr Devonport and Mr Smart, otherwise the problems which Mr Devonport was experiencing would have come out and the use of an unauthorised procedure would have been disclosed.

Mr McDonald, chief analyst, must be regarded as sharing some responsibility because of his failure to put in hand inquiries designed to reveal shortcomings in company practice, having had a clear mandate from his managing director.

Keele conference

continued from p 77

A graduate of the Welsh School of Pharmacy is Mr P. E. Taylor, the Conference secretary, who is Press officer for the branch and is a member of the Staffordshire Pharmaceutical Committee.

Mr J. R. Watkis was also a joint secretary until June. He has now left the area to take up a position with Parke-Davis of Pontypool, and Mr M. S. Edwards became assistant secretary in June.

The treasurer of the local Committee is Mr E. J. Burrows, MPS, who is aided by his wife.

North Staffordshire Branch

Established in 1870 and now having a membership of 277, the headquarters of the Branch is at the North Staffordshire Medical Institute. The Branch claims that it has grown from a local association of pharmacists to an organisation concerned with many aspects of public life, making a wider contribution to the public good than the mere dispensing of medicines. Many *Chemist & Druggist* subscribers will recall the name of H. Clement Shaw, who was treasurer of the Pharmaceutical Society from 1943-1947, then vice president from 1947-1948 and president from 1948-1950. The Branch chairman's badge of office was presented by Mr Clement-Shaw in 1931.

The British Pharmaceutical Conference at Keele 1972 will undoubtedly be considered an outstanding Conference by members not only because of the extremely good facilities available at Keele University, but because of a number of innovations promised by the local committee. There is still time to submit applications to:—Mr P. E. Taylor at 48, Paris Avenue, Westlands, Newcastle, Staffs. ST5 2RQ.

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PROFESSIONAL NEWS

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

Society rejects NPU call for business management in all degree courses

The Pharmaceutical Society's Council has rejected an NPU proposal that all pharmacy degree courses should include instruction in business management—and has in turn suggested that the NPU should itself introduce a correspondence course for pre-registration graduates.

The National Pharmaceutical Union Executive Committee had proposed that the time devoted to business management instruction should be commensurate with the importance of the subject. Mr K. A. Lees, who had been re-elected chairman of the Education Committee, reported to last week's Council meeting that after considering the opinion on the matter of the heads of the schools of pharmacy, the Committee confirmed Council's policy that: "In most degrees, additional time is set aside for general studies and it is hoped that during this time some instruction will be given in the basic principles of business administration. It is accepted that no individual aspects of this subject can be dealt with in depth as priority must be given to the pharmaceutical sciences and pharmaceutical law in the degree course."

It was noted that instruction in pharmacy practice was included in degree courses and the Committee felt it should be left to each school of pharmacy to decide whether time was available for business studies. The preregistration year was the most appropriate period for such instruction, it was felt, and it was suggested that the NPU might be asked to consider introducing a correspondence course for graduates undertaking preregistration experience in private general practice pharmacies. It was further pointed out that other management courses were available to graduates during the preregistration year.

Seminar on pharmacy law

It was agreed that a seminar should be held at which lecturers responsible for teaching pharmacy law in schools of pharmacy would be acquainted with latest developments in the subject. The seminar would be held in the autumn of 1972 or the spring of 1973.

The council of the Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association had resolved that to preserve continuity, member associations should be urged to appoint as their representative a named individual pharmacist to serve at least from one five-yearly conference to the next. Mr A. Howells, who had been elected chairman of the Organisation Committee, said that the Committee supported the CPA council's view. It recommended that the Society's representative on the CPA council should be a member of the Society's Council appointed as a named

individual to serve until the end of the next CPA conference in 1977, provided that that person continued to be a member of Council. It was also recommended that the Society's representative should be recommended to the Council by the officers.

More for CPA

It was agreed that, following a request from the CPA council and in line with the decision of a number of other constituent societies, the Pharmaceutical Society's subscription to the Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association should be increased from £750 to £1,000 per annum.

It was reported by Mr J. P. Bannerman, who had been elected chairman of the Practice Committee, that the Society had been invited to send a representative to a meeting of the working party on the national advisory programme on mastitis control. It was recommended that Mr K. A. Youings, chairman of the agricultural and veterinary practice subcommittee, should be appointed to represent the Society.

It was agreed that Mr P. J. Copus be invited to serve as an elected member of the subcommittee for the period to May 1974.

The Society had been invited to send two representatives to a proposed meeting convened by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food at which the way in which the new controls resulting from the implementation of the Swann committee's recommendations were working in practice, and to see what effect they had had on the inclusion of antibiotics in animal feeding stuffs generally. It was recommended that the Ministry should be informed that the Society would welcome a meeting of the kind envisaged.

It was reported that the national organiser of the Women's National Cancer Campaign had asked for the names and addresses of the Society's branch secretaries in the Midlands area who might be prepared to help in the formation of local branches of the WNCC and the implementation of screening programmes. The Practice Committee agreed that branch secretaries should be encouraged to participate and it was recommended that they should be given details of the WNCC's proposals and asked for their co-operation, and that

the Society's Press officers in the areas concerned be informed of the projects envisaged.

It was reported that a pharmacy company had asked for advice about the giving out of a newspaper from its branches which described the activities of the company. Mrs E. J. M. Leigh, who had been elected chairman of the Ethical Committee, reported that the Committee felt that such a development in pharmacy was unacceptable if it clashed with any of the standards normally applied to advertising by pharmacists.

The Committee on the European Economic Community recommended that the Society should make strong representations to the Secretary of State that a pharmacist should be appointed to serve on the economic and social committee as a representative of the liberal professions. That committee is one of the bodies that must be consulted by the Council of Ministers before a draft directive is approved.

At a health professions forum on the EEC on June 7, it was reported, representatives of the professions present had been asked to obtain the views of their respective governing bodies on the subject of a "period of adaptation" in relation to the draft directives of the EEC. It was recommended that the Government should be informed that the Pharmaceutical Society considered that a period of adaptation should be included in the draft directives.

'Adaptation' not 'transitional'

Mr C. C. Stevens pointed out that "a period of adaptation" must not be confused with a transitional period. A transitional period was one during which individual countries might bring directives into force according to their local legislation. The period of adaptation referred to meant a period spent in a country by a professional person to familiarise himself with the language and the legislation before full implementation on the register.

At the annual meeting, Mr F. J. Reynolds had raised the question of sales of cyanide by manufacturers. Mr Reynolds had supplied a list of companies which he believed might have been selling cyanide without complying with the appropriate regulations. All the firms had been visited. In one case a newspaper reporter had been able to buy cyanide because he had represented himself to be a jeweller requiring it for trade purposes. In all other instances, the law appeared to be being complied with, reported Mr J. A. Balmford, who had been elected chairman of the Law Committee.

It was agreed to set up a fund for a memorial to the late F. W. Adams, in the form of furnishing a room in the Society's new building, or for such other purposes as the Council might decide.

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HERE

Europeans' preference for 'one man one pharmacy'

Ownership of only one pharmacy by a pharmacist is, in principle, the basis of retail pharmaceutical practice in five of the six EEC countries—and European pharmacists prefer to stay that way.

That point was made in answer to questions when the National Pharmaceutical Union Executive Committee entertained EEC officials in London on June 27.

Mr J. A. Verreydt, general secretary of the EEC pharmacy group, explained that only Belgium had a similar retail structure to the UK, but even there a law had been passed this year requiring that new contracts should go to pharmacists and not to non-pharmacists.

Mr J. P. de Crayencour, chief of division, liberal professions, of the European Community, speaking in French, dealt with that part of the EEC "dossier on pharmacies" that was concerned with the right of establishment for dispensing chemists. He prefaced his remarks with the reminder that whatever was being discussed today must eventually be incorporated in the wider context of European integration involving free movement of persons and medicines, reform of training, taxation, social security and scientific research.

The body of Mr de Crayencour's address dealt with the initial standpoint of the EEC Commission, the progress of the Council of Ministers' discussions and the position in the United Kingdom, under the following main headings:—

- ☐ Abolition of restrictions on national interchange of pharmacists
- ☐ Mutual recognition of qualifications
- ☐ The place of retail pharmacy in the economic life of the Community
- ☐ Co-ordination of training, responsibilities and independence

Mr G. T. M. David, NPU Executive, replying, said that British pharmacists were envious of the status of their professional colleagues on the continent and thus looked forward to joining them in the Common Market. He knew that a principal aim of the EEC pharmacy group was to safeguard the professional interests of the retail pharmacist and he hoped this also extended to his economic well being.

Mr Verreydt, who acted as interpreter for his colleague, said he was glad to welcome British pharmacists into the Community and believed that this would do much to ensure the future prosperity of the group and of pharmacy in Europe. As an independent free profession it was important that they took notice of all the laws that regulated pharmacy, and each country must learn how the other functioned in the community.

During question time Mr de Crayencour assured Mr A. Howells that veterinary as well as human medicines were referred to in the directive on monopoly. Mr D. Royce inquired whether the EEC had a solution to the British situation where pharmacists had the right to supply

veterinary products but had no right to obtain them. Mr Verreydt replied that there was no specific veterinary legislation on that point yet and the relevant draft directives were not yet "fixed", but he felt it should be one of their monopoly aims.

It was Mr Verreydt's personal view that there could be advantages for the local community in some areas if, say, three separate private pharmacies grouped together in single premises to provide a continuous service; the pharmacists would also benefit by having more free time. This, however, would raise separate problems of subservience to professional colleagues.

Also present at the dinner were representatives of the Pharmaceutical Societies of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Department of Health.

NPU names its men for EEC

The NPU Executive Committee decided at its meeting on June 28 that its representatives on the EEC pharmacy group would be Mr G. T. M. David, chairman of the Central NHS (Chemist Contractors) Committee and a member of the Executive, and Mr J. Wright, director, NPU Group. Mr K. R. Rutter, immediate past chairman of the Executive, would attend as a "substitute" and Mr W. A. G. Kneale, NPU staff, as an "expert".

It was also confirmed that the NPU would be represented on the UK Committee being set up to determine group policy by Messrs David, Rutter and Wright and that Mr A. Medcalfe, chairman NPU Executive, would act as "substitute" member.

The Executive Committee also agreed to accept the recommendation that Mr W. M. Darling, immediate past president

of the Pharmaceutical Society, should be appointed head of the delegation to the group and UK group chairman.

Further consideration was given to the four group principles not adopted in May (training, social security, ethics and ownership) and good progress was achieved. It was clear, however, that the "ownership" principle would require many more months of study before tentative proposals could be formulated on how the UK might begin to take the first steps towards reaching agreement on a common EEC "ownership" policy.

Need for an out-of-hours service

Local Pharmaceutical Committees recognise that the introduction of some form of nationally-organised out-of-hours pharmacy service will become necessary in the long term—but in most areas, existing arrangements are considered to be adequate.

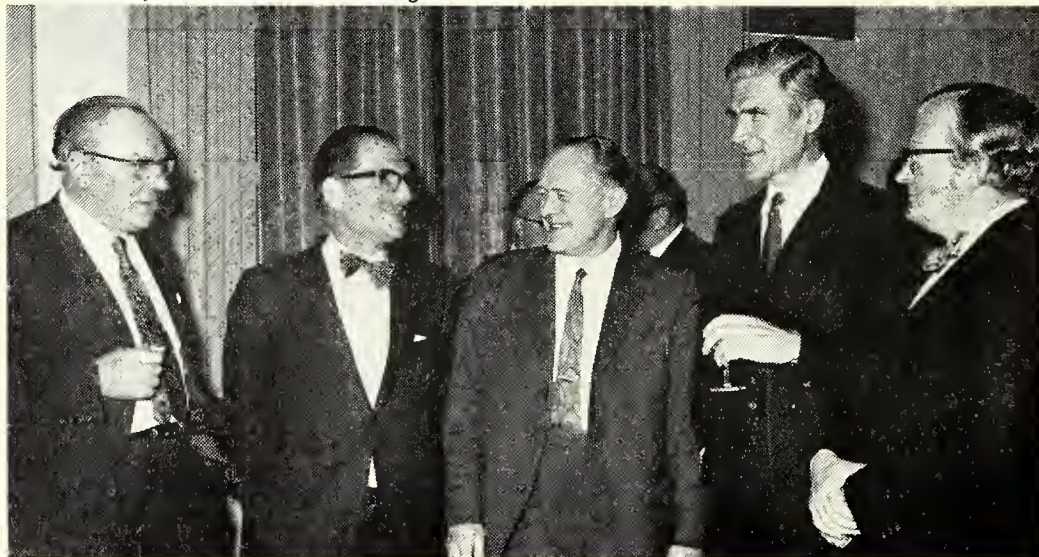
That is the finding of replies to a letter circulated by the Central Contractors Committee to LPCs concerning additional hours of service and the suggested weekend on-call service, it was reported to the Committee's June meeting (see also last week, p 34).

It was reported that the Committee's claim for an increase in the container allowance to 1p per prescription was under consideration by the Department of Health. A claim for an increase in the "on account" payment had been lodged with the Department.

Concern was expressed over the extra work caused to pharmacists by the availability of a number of different designs and sizes of Form EC66(a) (oxygen delivery claim form).

After reference had been made to the Committee's decision one year previously to accept a locum fee of £6.75 per day with reservations and for an interim period only, it was resolved that a fresh claim be submitted to the Department for a fee of £10 per day to pay the cost of a locum when a pharmacist was attending a refresher course.

At the NPU reception, left to right, G. T. M. David, J. A. Verreydt, A. Medcalfe, J. P. de Crayencour and Mr J. Wright



MARKET NEWS

Sharp price rise in cascara

London, July 12: Although the value of the £ fluctuated considerably less than in the previous two weeks since it was floated, overseas sellers of essential oils and crude drugs were largely unprepared to make firm forward commitments.

With South Africa following the British £ the value of buchu has eased off and offers are being made for spot supplies. However the feature of the week was provided by cascara, the price of which rose considerably. Whereas a week ago spot old crop was being offered at £325 metric ton, quotations are now £420. This is mainly due to shortage of new crop and only in a minor degree to currency values. The new crop is quoted at £410, cif, more than £100 ton over last shipment rates. After the flurry in pepper trading in the previous week the market was dull and values eased off. Also lower were Seychelles cinnamon bark, Costa Rican ipecacuanha and fenugreek seed. Dearer were Cochin ginger, menthol and turmeric.

Changes in essential oils were mainly upward adjustments in the forward rates. They included anise, camphor white, eucalyptus, *arvensis* peppermint and Chinese spearmint.

Sodium perborate tetrahydrate is shortly being advanced by £6.75 kg. Theobromine is easier.

Pharmaceutical chemicals

Acetic acid: in 12-ton lots, delivered, per metric ton, BPC glacial £87.50; 90.5 per cent technical £81; 80 per cent grades pure £76.50; technical £69.50.

Acetomenaphthone: 100-kg lots £5.62½ kg.

Ascorbic acid: £2.36 kg; 5-kg £2.33 kg; sodium ascorbate plus £0.23; coated plus £0.10.

Benzoic acid: One-metric ton lots £30.42 kg.

Boric acid: BP grade per metric ton: granular £99; crystals £140; powder £110; extra-fine powder £114 in paper bags, carriage paid. Technical is £20 per 1,000 kg less than BP grades.

Calcium carbonate: BP precipitated £49 per 10,000 kg.

Calcium gluconate 250-kg lots £0.63 kg.

Calcium lactate: 250-kg £412 per metric ton.

Calcium pantothenate: £5.23 kg; 25-kg, £5.18 kg.

Calcium sodium lactate: metric ton. £709 for 50-kg lots.

Carotene: Suspension 20 per cent £16.73 kg.

Citric acid: BP granular hydrous per metric ton 50-kg lots, £337; 250-kg £325; 1,000-kg £313. Anhydrous £358, £346, £334 respectively. Premium for powder £10.

Cyanocobalamin: up to 200-g lots £2 per g.

Digoxin: Up to 25-g lots £2.60 per g.

Dimidium bromide: 5-g lots £3.20 g.

Emetine: hydrochloride £375 kg;—bismuth iodide £212.50.

Ephedrine: (25-kg per kg) alkaloid £11.64; hydrochloride £9.75; sulphate £9.50.

Folic acid: 5-kg lots £16 kg.

Gallic acid: 1,000-kg lots £1.62 kg.

Hydroxocobalamin: £5.25 per g.

Hyoscine hydrobromide: £314.25 kg.

Hyoscyamine sulphate: (100-g lots) £59 kg.

Ichthammol: 1,000-kg lots £0.52 kg.

Iodides: (Per kg) Potassium £2.16 (50-kg lots) £2.14 (250-kg); sodium £2.75 (50-kg).

Iodine: Chilean crude £2.08½ per kg; resublimed £2.87 in 50-kilo lots.

Iron ammonium sulphate: 100-kg £205 per metric ton.

Iron and ammonium citrate: (per metric ton) granules, 50-kg lots £650 1-ton £620. Scales 50-kg £820; 1-ton £790; green £830.

Iron phosphate: £470 for metric ton 50-kg lots.

Isoprenaline sulphate: 5-kg £16.50 kg.

Lactic acid: £570 metric ton for 50-kg lots.

Magnesium peroxide: 50-kg lots 23-25 per cent £0.59 kg.

Nicotinamide: (Per kg) 1-kg £2.12; 25-kg £2.07 50-kg £2.02.

Nicotinic acid: (Per kg) 1 kg £1.93; 50-kg £1.83.

Oleic acid: BP is £206.70 per metric ton delivered.

Oxalic acid: 20-ton lots about £170 metric ton.

OPanthenol: £9 kg; 5-kg £8.50 kg.

Paracetamol: 1-metric ton lots £1.17 kg; 5-ton £1.14 kg. For direct compression £1.27 and £1.24 kg respectively.

Pyridoxine: £4.50 kg; 5-kg £4.47kg.

Pyrogalllic acid: Pure 500-kg lots £4.73 kg.

Quinidine: Alkaloid (10-kg lots) £48 kg; sulphate (50-kg) £44.

Quinine: (Per kg in 85-kg lots) Alkaloid £29.25; bisulphate £22.85; dihydrochloride £28.60; hydrochloride £28; sulphate £24; hydrobromide (10-kg) £28.75.

Riboflavin: £13.35 kg; 5-kg lots £13.32 kg.

Saccharin: BP Powder 1 lb and over £0.85; soluble £0.77½ lb.

Salicylamide: (Per metric ton) 5-ton lots £700; 1-ton £710; ½ ton £720.

Salicylic acid: per metric ton 5-ton lots £405; 1-ton £425; 250-kg £470.

Sodium perborate: (Per 1,000 kg) monohydrate £283.50—tetrahydrate £145.75 kg.

Sorbitol: Powder £335 metric ton for over 250 kg.

Stilboestrol: BP in 25-kilo lots £33 kg.

Streptomycin: £11 kg base; dihydrostreptomycin £11.50 kg base.

Strychnine: (kg) alkaloid £12.25; sulphate and hydrochloride £10.50.

Tannic acid: 500-kg fluffy £1.35 kg; powder £1.33.

Tartaric acid: (Per metric ton) 50-kg lots £437; 250-kg £432; £428 ton.

Terpineol: 50-kg lots £0.47 kg.

Theobromine: Alkaloid 100-kg lots £2.30 kg.

Theophylline: (50-kg) BP anhydrous, hydrate and ethylenediamine (aminophylline) £2.23 kg.

Thiamine: Hydrochloride and nitrate £7.55 kg; 5-kg £7.52 kg; 25-kg £7.50.

L-Thyroxine: £1.15 per g.

L-Triiodothyronine sodium: £2.50 per g.

Vitamin A: Oily 1 m iu per g £6.68 kg; 5 kg £6.58 kg; dried acetate 325,000 iu per g £3.48 kg; 500,000 iu, £4.55.

Vitamin D: Powder for tableting 850,000 iu per g. £17.81 kg; 5-kg £17.75 kg.

Vitamin E: (per kg) £7.15; 5-kg lots £7.05; 25 per cent dry powder £4.81 and £4.71 respectively; 50 per cent, £5.35 and £5.25.

Zinc carbonate: BPC 25-kg sacks £0.26 kg.

Zinc chloride: granular 96-98% £135 metric ton.

Zinc sulphate: heptahydrate £52 metric ton.

Crude drugs

Buchu: Spot £1 per lb; shipment £0.98, cif.

Cascara: Spot £420 metric ton; shipment £410, cif.

Cinnamon: Seychelles bark £275 ton, cif. Ceylon quills four O's £604.80, quillings £313.60.

Ginger: (ton) Cochin £240, cif. Jamaican No. 3 £1,050 spot; £840, cif. Nigerian split £210 spot, £195 cif; peeled £310 spot; £295, cif. Sierra Leone, offers withdrawn.

Ipecacuanha: (per lb) Matto Grosso £2.50 spot; £2.40, cif. Costa Rican £.25 spot; £2, cif.

Menthol: (kg) Chinese spot £6.25, shipment £6.20, cif. Brazilian spot £3.80, afloat £3.75, cif; July-August £3.70, cif.

Pepper: (ton) Sarawak black £380 spot; £330, cif; white £510; £470, cif.

Seeds: (ton) Anise: China star £175, spot; shipment £125, cif. Caraway: Dutch ex wharf £390. Celery: Indian £300; shipment £260, cif. Coriander: Moroccan £80, cif. Cumin: Indian £300, cif. Iranian £240 cif. Dill: Indian, for shipment £120, cif. Fennel: Chinese £130 (metric ton), cif; Indian nominal. Fenugreek: Moroccan £69 long ton, cif. Mustard £60-£120 spot.

Turmeric: Madras finger £195 ton; £172.50, cif.

Essential oils

Anise: Chinese £1.45 kg spot; £1.40, cif.

Camphor white: Spot £0.38; £0.35 kg, cif.

Eucalyptus: Chinese 80-85 per cent £0.68 kg in bond; shipment £0.68, cif.

Peppermint: (per kg) Arvensis Chinese, spot unobtainable; £2.60, cif. Oct-Nov Brazilian £1.60 spot; £1.55, cif. American Piperata from £1.60.

Petitgrain: Spot unobtainable; shipment £3.70, kg, cif.

Spearmint: American from £5.30 kg, cif; Chinese spot nominal; shipment £4, cif.

Equipment

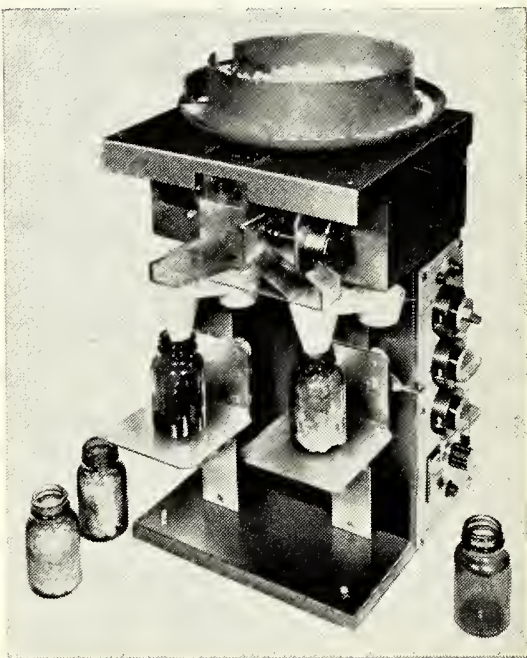
Another counter from C. E. King

The Dispensa tablet counter has recently been introduced by C. E. King Ltd, 41 London Street, Chertsey, Surrey.

Priced at £350 it is anticipated that the counter's main use will be multi-batch pre-packing although it can handle individual prescription items.

The light sensitive amplifier system used as the counting device is said to cope with both tablets and capsules of all shapes up to 16mm.

Items to be counted are poured into the circular vibrating hopper and then pass



along the feed channel in a single line and past a light beam. An adjustable vibrator control is fitted to the machine, but no adjustment is required for tablet size.

The count required is selected from 1-1,000 on the three dials. A bulk hopper will be available for large quantity use.

A shutter goes over the filling funnel automatically when the required quantity has passed into the final container. Both shutters are employed in pre-packing operations, with the items to be counted being directed into alternate containers.

The machine has no traps where tablets or dust may lodge and is said to be easy to clean.

Bellopump dispensers

A new dispenser has been added to Weston's Bellopump range. This is a piston type pump giving an accurate dose of 6ml, although it can be preset to meter smaller quantities, tolerance on dose said to be within 2 per cent.

Used for a number of different products, the dispenser can be fitted to almost any screw cap and therefore can be applied to a wide variety of containers. It is normally manufactured in polypropylene in several colours, but other materials such as TPX can be used if required. Valves and return springs are in stainless steel. (S. B. Weston Ltd, Building No 13, Platts Eyot, Lower Sunbury Road, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 2HF).

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Situations vacant

SENIOR PHARMACIST HOME OFFICE, PRISON DEPARTMENT

Applications are invited from male or female registered Pharmacists aged 25 or over for appointment as Senior Pharmacist at Her Majesty's Prison, Holloway, London, N7. Previous hospital experience is not essential.

Salary scale £1,563 to £1,944 plus £102 per annum environment allowance. London weighting of £90 per annum is payable in addition. Starting salary above the minimum of the scale may be allowed for previous National Health Service, Government Service or other comparable experience.

A five-day week is worked. The annual leave allowance is three weeks and 3 days rising to four weeks after ten years' total service, plus six public holidays.

Application forms obtainable from the Establishment Officer, Home Office, Prison Department (R 10/10 VDC), Portland House, Stag Place, London, SW1.

For further information please telephone the Chief Pharmacist, HM Prison, Holloway (01-607 0231).

DEPUTY CHIEF PHARMACIST HOME OFFICE, PRISON DEPARTMENT

Applications are invited from male or female registered Pharmacists aged 25 or over for appointment as Deputy Chief Pharmacist (Category IV) at Her Majesty's Prison, Wormwood Scrubs, Du Cane Road, London, W.12. Previous hospital experience is not essential.

Present salary scale £1,629 to £2,085 plus £102 per annum environment allowance. (Improved scales will shortly be applicable). London weighting is payable in addition. Starting salary above the minimum of the scale may be allowed for previous National Health Service, Government Service or other comparable experience.

A 5-day week is worked.

Application forms obtainable from the Establishment Officer, Home Office, Prison Department, (R10/10 VDC), Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1.

For further information please telephone the Head Pharmacist of the Prison Service (01-743 0311. Ext. 324).

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